

Resource & Referral in Nebraska  
Prepared by Child Care Unit, Office of Economic & Family Support, HHS  
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Overall gap: Lack of public will for financing all gaps in Early Care & Education, including R & R

Services for Families	Nebraska Ongoing Efforts	Gaps
Help families find & choose quality child care	R & R's: Child Care Solutions (Hall, Hamilton & Merrick Counties), Family Service of Omaha (Omaha & surrounding Douglas County area for fee of \$125 unless employee of contracted company), Midwest Child Care Association (Omaha area, FCCHI & II only, primarily those participating in their food program; fee of \$35 allows password to access list via website), Child Care Connection (Lancaster County), NorthEast Nebraska Child Care Resource & Referral (Antelope, Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Madison, Pierce, Stanton, Thurston & Wayne Counties), Answers4families - NRRS Local offices, Central Office - will print & mail if the parent doesn't have access to the internet Credentialing website, Right Place video & brochure Head Start/Early Head Start, primarily through referrals	1. Unable to track vacancies, including by age of child, by hours of care; providers who accept Child Care Subsidy, participate in Food Program, or are accredited 2. No automated way for complaint history (want that enhancement on LIS so specialists can enter info on their site and public can access to look it up) 3. No tracking of license-exempt
Provide families with information on child development, brain research, early learning	Child Care Connection (Lincoln/Lancaster Co.) Early Childhood Training Center Family Resource Centers sometimes fill some gaps PBS Reach Out & Read Healthy Child Care America First Connections Ready to Read Read Aloud Nebraska Regional Training Coalitions Early Intervention Planning Region Teams Medical community (Omaha Pediatric initiative) Head Start/Early Head Start via parent involvement	Need better linkages between medical community & other early care players

Provide consumer education & link families to other community services	<p>Local offices to a limited degree</p> <p>Early Childhood Training Center (Consumer Education only)</p> <p>Answers4Families</p> <p>“211” system</p> <p>Local Community Action Agencies</p> <p>Regional Training Coalitions</p> <p>Family Resource Centers</p> <p>HHS Web Site</p> <p>NDE publications</p> <p>Service coordination</p> <p>Medical community</p> <p>Info &amp; Referrals via Head Start &amp; Even Start</p> <p>Voices for Children brochure</p>	<p>Need better linkages between medical community &amp; other early care players.</p> <p>“211” system is not fully operational yet.</p>
Help families transitioning from ADC find services	<p>Local HHS offices</p> <p>CCDBG funded initiatives funded through Economic Development</p> <p>Community Action Agencies</p> <p>Advocacy groups</p> <p>One Stop Shops (DOL)</p> <p>Head Start/Early Head Start</p>	

<b>Services to Communities</b>	<b>Nebraska Ongoing Efforts</b>	<b>Gaps</b>
Leverage public & private resources to increase access to child care	<p>TEACH</p> <p>Local United Ways</p> <p>Chambers of Commerce/Businesses</p> <p>Private Foundations</p> <p>Local efforts</p>	Level of involvement varies across communities; More partnerships needed.
Manage Child Care Subsidy	<p>HHS, Office of Economic &amp; Family Support, Local HHS offices</p> <p>Child Care Development Block Grant-funded initiatives through Dept of Education (Quality \$)</p>	Links to DED/CDBG could be strengthened

Manage Child & Adult Care Food Program	Dept of Education Local and Regional Food Program Sponsors	
Collaborate with Head Start, parent organizations & health care providers	Head Start State Collaboration Office, Dept. of Education Head Start Association Head Starts Office of Special Education/Special Populations, Dept. of Education Local schools Community Action agencies Local Food Program sponsors Office of Economic & Family Support, HHS (state and local) Regulation & Licensure, HHS Regional Training Coalitions State-funded early childhood grant programs Early Intervention Planning Region Teams Health providers Parent organizations	Collaboration and involvement varies across communities

<b>Services for Providers</b>	<b>Nebraska Ongoing Efforts</b>	<b>Gaps</b>
Provide training for providers	Regional Training Coalitions Nebraska Dept of Education (1st Connections, School Age Connections) HHS R & L Child Care Resource Specialists Higher Education (2 and 4 yr.) Northeast NE Child Care, Early Childhood Training Center, Food Program sponsors - nutrition, safety training, Visiting nurses UNL Extension Division TEACH Early Childhood professional organizations Local child care provider support groups Head Start/Early Head Start with their child care partners Head Start Association Community Learning Center network	Core competencies for providers Infrastructure to provide training on core competencies

Support parents & providers whose primary language is not English	Some Regional Training Coalitions Community Action Agencies (to a limited degree) HHS has some written documents in Spanish Even Start Head Start/Early Head Start NDE Early Childhood Training Center Some school districts	No assistance in completing fire marshal, health inspections, or child care licensing process when language isn't English. Involvement varies across communities Few bilingual staff across programs
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<b>Build the Supply of Child Care</b>	<b>Nebraska Ongoing Efforts</b>	<b>Gaps</b>
Conduct needs assessments & establish goals for supply building	Child Care Solutions, Child Care Connection, Omaha 2000 Chamber of Commerce Office annual EQUIP survey, Columbus Chamber of Commerce annual survey, Local United Ways & other local efforts Past HHS report on ratio of children to licensed slots per county OEFS data by zip code for select communities Head Start/Early Head Start community assessments done every 3 years to determine needs for services	Survey alignment team (state level) Focus funding levels regarding enhancing quality and building supply Strategic data analysis
Assist providers in complying with requirements	HHS OEFS (child care grants), HHS R & L Child Care Resource Specialists Training support via Management Training Early Head Start Infant Toddler Initiative and formal Head Start Child Care partnerships to comply with licensing & Head Start performance standards NDE Accreditation Project Early Childhood Training Center Child Line Developing health & safety curriculum through HHSS Family Health & Child Care Licensing	

<b>Collect &amp; Analyze Data</b>	<b>Nebraska Ongoing Efforts</b>	<b>Gaps</b>
Conduct market rate surveys & needs assessments	HHS, Economic & Family Support (market rate survey--statewide), Omaha Chamber of Commerce annual EQUIP survey, Columbus Chamber of Commerce annual survey, Local United Ways	Needs assessments vary across communities
Maintain data on supply & demand	Child Care Solutions Child Care Connection OEFS (supply) HHS R & L (supply and new data on inquiries) Answers4families (re: demand; data on inquiries)	
Collect data to track trends	HHS Finance & Support Midwest Child Care Research Consortium NDE Regional Training Coalitions Early Childhood Training Center	
Produce reports	HHS Finance & Support federal reports (annual & monthly), Omaha 2000 biannual State-funded Early Childhood Evaluation Report Midwest Child Care Research Consortium Voices for Children Early Childhood Training Center NDE's Regional Training Coalition Survey reports ECICC Report to Governor biannual Early Head Start Initiative Annual Evaluation Other task force reports	

R & R Functions were taken from Poised for Shaping Results-Based Early Learning Systems, Linda Smith, Yasmina Vinci, Michelle Galvan, naccrra, June 2003